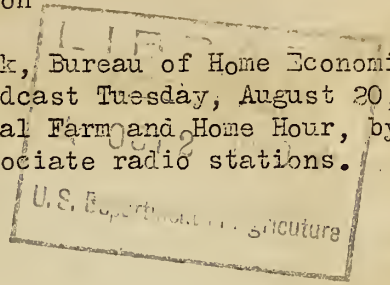


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.982
A2 R11

When Choosing an Electric Iron



A radio conversation between Miss Dorothy Shank, Bureau of Home Economics, and Mr. Wallace Kadderly, Office of Information, broadcast Tuesday, August 20, 1940, in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, by the National Broadcasting Company and a network of 37 associate radio stations.

--ooOoo--

WALLACE KADDERLY:

Speaking for the Bureau of Home Economics today is Miss Dorothy Shank. She joined the Household Equipment Division of this Bureau a few months ago. Since that time Miss Shank has been working out some buying guides for the various pieces of equipment that make work go faster and easier in the home. She has just been showing me the latest one.....suggestions for choosing an electric iron.

Miss Shank, it seems to me an electric iron is a very timely topic this hot weather.....when the ironing problem looms rather large in most households.

DOROTHY SHANK:

A good iron does help.

KADDERLY:

A "good" iron you say. I'd like to know just what makes an iron good.

SHANK:

You sort of put me on the spot, Mr. Kadderly. No one or even two things make an iron good; it's the whole thing put together.

KADDERLY:

All right, let's consider for a few minutes some of the points that make up the whole. Some irons have higher wattage than others. Some have thermostatic controls. And in this pamphlet you have just given me, I see that shape, weight, and size are pretty important.

SHANK:

But safety comes first. Like all electric appliances an iron should be safe.

KADDERLY:

By safety, I suppose you mean that the iron should be made so the user can't get a shock from it.

SHANK:

Yes.....and it should also be made so there is no danger of fire caused by a short circuit. The Underwriters' Laboratories has established standards of safety and all irons that meet these standards are safe from shock or fire.

KADDERLY:

When a manufacturer gets ready to market a new model, does he have to submit this model for test?

SHANK:

No. However, if it is submitted and is passed, it is entitled to carry a label indicating that the iron is safe.

(over)

KADDERLY:

That label is one of the first things to look for in choosing an electric iron.

SHANK:

Speaking of labels, another label awfully important on irons is the cord label. Cord labels are of different colors depending on the amount of use and abuse different cords can take. A gold band indicates that the cord is made to stand 10,000 twists or bends without breaking. And if a cord bears a red band that indicates it will stand 3,000 twists without breaking.

KADDERLY:

A cord with a gold band will last longer and one with a red band is fairly good. Some cost more than others. Does the price of a cord tell anything about its quality?

SHANK:

Yes, in a way. Cords that will take the most punishment are usually more expensive because they are made of the best materials.

KADDERLY:

.....And what about some of the new irons---the streamlined variety?

SHANK:

Well, streamlined irons look mighty nice and shape is something to be considered. But the important thing is the proper combination of weight, and wattage, and size as well as the shape.

KADDERLY:

What about weight? Is there any special weight you recommend?.....Heavy irons..... Light weight irons?

SHANK:

We don't recommend any particular weight. Irons vary from three to eight pounds. The lighter the iron the easier it is, of course, to lift it back and forth during ironing. Many women prefer a light weight iron and our tests show that light weight irons are all right. The weight alone isn't the only thing you need for a good ironing job. The amount of dampness in the article and the padding of the ironing board have something to do with that too.

KADDERLY:

And I suppose the iron must be heated just right and that's where the wattage comes in. The amount of the wattage determines whether the iron heats slowly or rapidly.

SHANK:

Yes, and the matter of the right amount of heat is very important too. Irons should stay hot enough for all kinds of ironing, especially thicker and damper fabrics.

KADDERLY:

Else you might have to wait in the middle of a tablecloth while the iron heats up again. What about heat control devices on electric irons? Some irons have them; some don't.

SHANK:

A heat control makes it possible to have the right ironing temperature for everything. When the iron is hot enough off goes the current, and on it goes again if the iron becomes too cool.

KADDERLY:

Is this information about size, weight and wattage summed up on the label of an iron so you can see it when you go to buy?

SHANK:

Some of it is, and we hope the day will come when all the most important information will be found on the label. Then by comparing labels it will be easier than it is now to decide which iron will best suit the needs of each family.

KADDERLY:

You have furnished some interesting facts today, Miss Shank.
(Announce bulletin)

"ELECTRIC IRONS POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE SELECTING"

